

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Final Official Action dated December 2, 2005, claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 14 are amended. Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9-14 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler et al. (USPN 5,511,477) in view of Brand et al. (EP0782106).

Claims 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler et al. in view of Brand et al., as applied to claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-14, and further in view of Sakamoto (USPN 6,138,566).

II. In Alder et al., a coating material is NOT sprayed to a print, such as a printed sheet. In Alder et al., a printing plate itself is made. That is, in Alder et al., ink is applied by an inkjet *to a blank printing plate substrate in order to make an image itself*. The coating material is not applied in order to protect the printed image, but to be used in making the image itself.

Brand et al. disclose a technique to make a postage stamp using an inkjet. In Brand et al., one printing is divided into plural printings and overprinted. That is, the coating material is not applied in order to protect the printed image.

III. To expedite prosecution, independent claims 1, 6 and 10 are amended to delineate that the coating material is an image protecting coating material that is provided to protect an image on the print. Dependent claims 2, 5, 7, 9 and 14 are amended for consistency with amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10.

Thus, as neither Adler et al. nor Brand et al. disclose or suggest the features now recited in amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10, amended independent claims 1, 6 and 10 are patentable over Adler et al. and Brand et al., as are dependent claims 2, 5, 7, 9 and 11-14. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9-14, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

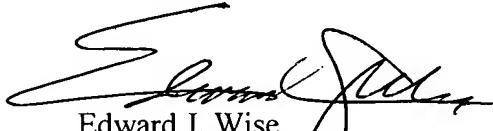
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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